



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

Fish and Wildlife Service

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SEALSKIN PRICES SHOW DECLINE AT AUCTION

A good attendance of buyers marked the fall auction of the Fouke Fur Company in St. Louis at which 25,100 Government-owned fur-seal skins from the Pribilof Islands were sold for \$1,420,260, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced today. The auction, held Monday, October 10, also included South African and Canadian fur-seal skins.

The grand average for all skins was \$55.93, which showed a decline from the spring fur-sale of 5.7 percent. The marked trend in preference for darker shades of fur was continued. Black sealskins showed an advance of 10.9 percent — averaging \$68.53 apiece. Although the darker shades of matara advanced, lighter shades declined. The all matara average declined 11.1 percent; the average price for matara being \$55.52. Safari brown, the lighter skins, declined 5.1 percent, for an average of \$46.81.

The Fouke Company also sold 309 Government-owned blue fox skins taken by the Pribilof Island natives. These averaged \$4.51, for a total of \$1,393.75.

The 1,625 Canadian government-owned matara brown sealskins sold at the auction for essentially the same prices commanded by the U. S. skins. South African Cape of Good Hope skins averaged \$23.62, showing a decline of 10.8 percent. The Government of the Union of South Africa offered 2,500 skins, and private shippers offered an additional 2,700 Cape of Good Hope sealskins.

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